

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /083 W
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 3153

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, IR
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS IN IRAN

REF: TEHRAN 2961

1. GRAND MASTER OF CEREMONIES HORMOZ GHARIB SUMMONED ME MORNING
OF APRIL 12 TO DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IN IRAN, AND, MORE
PARTICULARLY, A LETTER HE RECEIVED FROM WILLIAM J. BUTLER, HEAD
OF THE AMERICAN CHAPTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF
JURISTS. GHARIB SAID THAT THE SHAH HAD ASKED HIM TO DISCUSS
WITH ME HOW HE MIGHT RESPOND TO BUTLER'S REQUEST FOR AN AUDIENCE WITH
THE SHAH. HE SAID THAT BUTLER'S REPORT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS
SITUATION IN IRAN HAD MADE A VERY BAD IMPRESSION AND WAS, OF
COURSE, INACCURATE. HE ALSO EXPRESSED UNHAPPINESS WITH THE
BARAHENI TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON AUGUST 3. IN CONTRAST, HE
SAID, THE SHAH WAS VERY PLEASED WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY
ATHERTON'S TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEPTEMBER
8. GHARIB SAID "YOU COULD NOT HAVE DONE BETTER", AND ADDED
THAT THIS TESTIMONY HAD ONLY VERY RECENTLY BEEN BROUGHT TO THE SHAH'S
ATTENTION.

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2. I SAID THAT WE HAD TALKED TO BUTLER WHEN HE WAS HERE
GATHERING MATERIAL FOR HIS REPORT AND THAT WE HAD BEEN
DISAPPOINTED IN WHAT WE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN SOME INACCURACIES
IN THE REPORT. NEVERTHELESS, WE THOUGHT THAT BUTLER WAS
AN INTELLIGENT MAN WHO WAS TRYING TO GET AT THE TRUTH AND
THAT HE REPRESENTED A REPUTABLE, PRESTIGIOUS ORGANIZATION.
THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT IF THIS ORGANIZATION WAS TO REPORT

FAVORABLY ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN IRAN IT WOULD HAVE AN IMPORTANT EFFECT IN BETTERING IRAN'S IMAGE. I URGED, THEREFORE, THAT GHARIB RECOMMEND TO THE SHAH THAT HE RECEIVE BUTLER, ALTHOUGH THE OUTCOME MIGHT NOT BE ANY MORE FAVORABLE. GHARIB SAID THAT HE APPRECIATED WHAT I HAD TOLD HIM AND SHARED MY CONCLUSION AND THAT HE ALSO WAS INCLINED TO URGE THE SHAH TO RECEIVE BUTLER. IN THIS CONNECTION HE SAID THAT MARTIN ENNALS OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAD RECENTLY BEEN TO IRAN PRIVATELY AND HAD MET WITH THE SHAH. ACCORDING TO GHARIB, ENNALS LEFT IRAN WITH A VERY DIFFERENT AND MORE FAVORABLE IMPRESSION OF THE SITUATION HERE THAN THE ONE HE HAD BEFORE COMING. RESPONDING TO MY SUGGESTION, GHARIB ALSO THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA FOR BUTLER, IF HE CAME, TO KNOW THAT HE COULD TALK TO ANY IRANIAN HE SO DESIRED AND THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY BE BEST IF SUCH AN INDIVIDUAL OR INDIVIDUALS WERE NOT CONNECTED WITH THE GOVERNMENT. GHARIB PROMISED TO LET ME KNOW IF IT WAS DECIDED TO GRANT BUTLER'S REQUEST.

2. I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUGGEST TO GHARIB THAT THE WAY TO MEASURABLY IMPROVE IRAN'S IMAGE IN THIS MATTER WAS TO EXAMINE THE PROCEDURES IT PRESENTLY FOLLOWS IN DEALING WITH INDIVIDUALS CHARGED WITH TERRORISM, CONSPIRACY OR VIOLATION OF IRAN'S ANTI-COMMUNIST LAWS. THE RIGHT TO KNOW WHAT THE CHARGES WERE, THE RIGHT TO SELECT ONE'S OWN COUSEL, THE RIGHT TO CONFRONT WITNESSES AND THE RIGHT TO AN OPEN TRIAL BEFORE A JURY WERE ALL AREAS THAT WERE WORTH EXAMINING. GHARIB DID NOT CAVIL AT THIS SUGGESTION AND INDEED SEEMED TO AGREE THAT IT WAS WORTH CONSIDERING. WE CONFIDENTIAL

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SHALL SEE.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE SHAH'S PERSONAL CONCERN ABOUT IRAN'S HUMAN RIGHTS IMAGE AND HIS WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER WAYS IN WHICH IT MIGHT BE IMPROVED. CLEARLY OUR MESSAGE IS GETTING THROUGH. MIKLOS

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 12-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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